



HOW DOES A NATION END GUN VIOLENCE?

By **NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA**



ONE MILLION MOMS FOR GUN CONTROL

Members from the group, One Million Moms for Gun Control, came from across the country to march across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 21, 2013) to call on Congress to follow New York's lead and enact stricter limits on weapons and ammunition purchases.

The December shootings of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut reopened the debate over gun control. Twenty-seven people died, including the shooter, Adam Lanza, and his mother.

The New Republic reports there were nearly twice as many mass shootings in 2012 than in previous years, killing and injuring more than 140 people. In most cases, the guns used were purchased legally. As of mid-January 2013, there were 1,019 gun deaths since Sandy Hook.

So, what can be done? Some suggest prohibiting those not authorized, like police officers, from owning guns. If fewer people had guns, there would be less gun violence. Others suggest gun violence is a mental health issue and favor stricter laws that make gun ownership more difficult. Extremists, like the National Rifle Association, argue that more guns make people safer.

Other countries have taken strong action. When a gunman killed 16 primary school students in the 1996 Dunblane massacre in Scotland, the United Kingdom passed a law banning most private handgun ownership the same year. Also in 1996, when 35 were killed in Australia, John Howard, the prime minister, banned semi-automatic weapons within two weeks.

In January 2013, Republicans in Congress cited the Second Amendment when they opposed President Obama's proposals to tighten gun control. He wants the people to put the pressure on. "If parents and teachers, police officers and pastors, if hunters and sportsmen, if responsible gun owners, if Americans of every background stand up and say, enough," only then can change happen, he says.

A Brief History of Gun Control

1791: To protect American settlers from tyranny or invasion, the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed to allow citizens to bear arms (carry weapons) and form a militia (citizen soldiers).

1968: The Gun Control Act passed after President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were shot and killed in public. Criminals and people under 21 years old were not allowed to have guns.

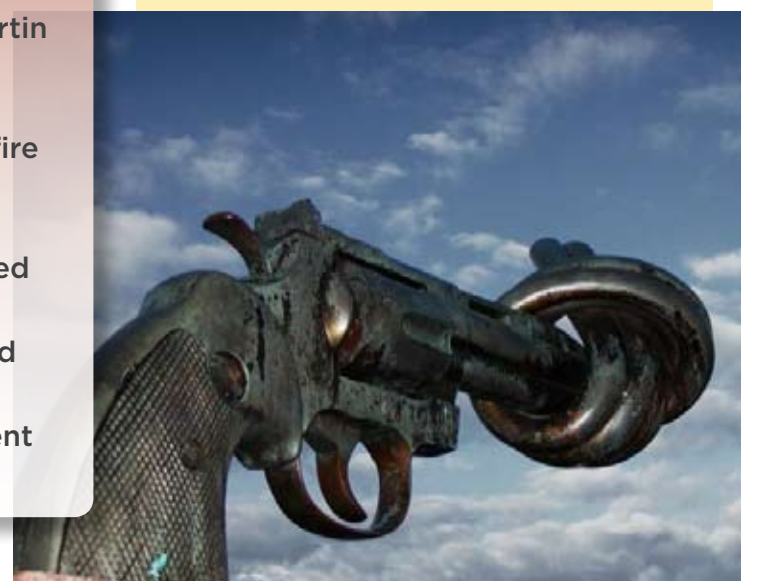
2004: A 1994 ban on assault weapons or semi-automatic guns (guns that fire more quickly) ended.

2005: The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act passed, preventing manufacturers from being held responsible when guns they made were used in a crime.

2010: The federal government lifted the ban on bringing hidden and loaded guns into national parks, depending on the state.

2013: President Obama pushes for stricter gun control laws and enforcement after the Sandy Hook shootings.

Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd's *Non-Violence*: sculpture of a bronze Colt Python .357 Magnum revolver with a knotted barrel, in Sweden





Meet... Meghan from Rwanda

Name: Meghan Bimenyimana

Language Spoken: Kinyarwanda,
French, English

Parent's Job: Business owner

Favorite Food: Beans, green banana,
spinach sauce

Favorite Animal: Dogs (Has two-
month-old puppy named Roy)

Favorite Subject in School: Math

Favorite Activities: Swimming
and tennis

Hobbies: Reading and cooking



Rwanda at a Glance

Population: 11,700,000

Languages Spoken: Kinyarwanda,
French, English, Swahili

Geography: Central Africa, east of
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Religions: Roman Catholic 56.5%, Prot-
estant 26%, Adventist 11.1%, Muslim 4.6%,
indigenous beliefs 0.1%, none 1.7%
(data from 2001)

40

That's the percentage of U.S. households living paycheck-to-paycheck and struggling to make ends meet.

Source: <http://www.businessnewsdaily.com/3758-tax-refund-windfall-american-families.html>

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The Importance of Grassroots Relief



By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 9, GEORGIA
REED-STAMM, age 10, and THEO YANOS, age 10

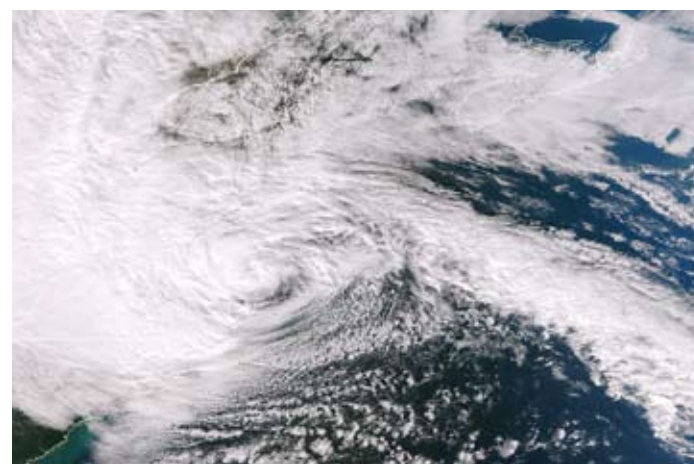
Before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) came to town after Superstorm Sandy, local community groups sprung to action, providing emergency relief to residents in the New York and New Jersey.

At the end of October 2012, Sandy claimed the lives of more than 100 people, mostly in New York and New Jersey, left millions without electricity, destroyed tens of thousands of homes, and paralyzed public transportation systems like the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City, according to Stephen Flynn's CNN report.

As soon as the storm ended, "Occupy Sandy [along with the websites 350.org and Recovers.org] coordinated more than three thousand volunteers to offer emergency relief to New Yorkers not receiving timely, and much needed assistance," Paul E.

McGinniss wrote for Ecowatch.org. Occupy Sandy provided information for volunteers and for those who needed help in all five boroughs: where to get food, water, medical attention or temporary housing. Chinatown's local community group CAAV, which helps low-income immigrants and refugees in New York City, helped Lower Manhattan residents faster than FEMA.

The same was true for Staten Islanders. "It took three days before any government agency came to help. Staten Island took care of themselves by helping one another," Anthony



Raiola, a Staten Island resident and volunteer for Occupy Sandy said.

"Most of the initial help that Staten Islanders received was from the Red Cross and the efforts of residents and businesses in the community," Kiwan Stewart said.

visit www.indykids.org for more information and extended interviews

Fracking — a Serious Health Risk

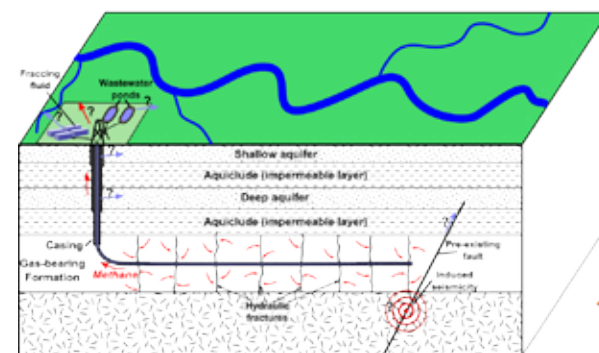
By YUUKI REAL, age 12

Thousands of protesters pressure Governor Cuomo of New York State and around the world to ban hydraulic fracturing—aka "fracking."

New York State, along with Pennsylvania, parts of Ohio, Maryland and West Virginia are on top of a large rock formation rich in natural gas, called the Marcellus Shale. The gas contained within the rock is very lucrative (producing a great deal of profit), because it is an energy alternative to oil and coal. But is fracking cleaner? Hydraulic fracturing is a method of drilling a hole deep through shale rock and then blasting a combination of chemicals and sand through the hole, causing the rock to fracture and release natural gas.

Critics argue that fracking contaminates air, land and water. Marcellusproject.org reports, "Wherever Marcellus development has come to Pennsylvania, reports of poison water, sick kids, and dead animals have followed."

A 2011 study by Duke University found that methane, a flammable gas released through



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



fracking, is 17 times higher in water wells near fracking sites. Josh Fox's documentary *Gasland* showed families whose tap water had been spoiled by a local fracking site, causing their water to turn into flames when a match is lit.

What can New Yorkers do to stop hydraulic fracturing in their state? Call Governor Cuomo at 866-584-6799 or 518-474-8390 and tell him to ban fracking.

indykids!

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
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People's Production House: www.peoplesproductionhouse.org
New York Taxi Workers Alliance: www.nytwta.org
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: www.peta.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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to see the complete
list of donors.

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- Rwanda ____
- Staten Island, New York ____
- The Philippines ____
- Australia ____
- Indian Ocean ____
- West Chester, Pennsylvania ____



Rolling Jubilee: a Bailout of the People by the People

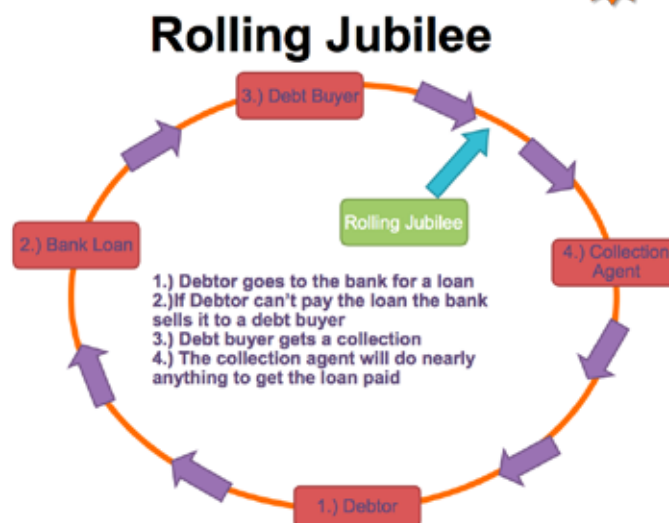
By ZOLA ROSS-GRAY and IRATI EGORHO DIEZ, ages 10

When people need money, they often go to a bank to take out a loan (with high interest rates). If the borrower (the debtor) can't pay the loan back, the bank sells the debt to a debt buyer, who then sells the debt to a collection agency. Then the collection agency aggressively chases the debtor to get all of the money.

The Rolling Jubilee was launched in November 2012 by a group called Strike Debt, which started in NYC but now has affiliates across the U.S. The Rolling Jubilee raises money to buy debts from the debt buyer before they get to the collection agency. Instead of collecting the debts, Strike Debt abolishes them. The group held a fundraiser with performers, and they use their website for people to donate money. According to Laura Hanna, "we started the Rolling Jubilee to relieve people of their debts and to educate people about the debt market and how unfair it is."

Rolling Jubilee and the debt cycle:

- Debtor:** The person who decides they need a loan to help them pay for something they don't have enough money for right now
- Bank loan:** An amount of money that a debtor borrows from a bank



3) **Debt buyer:** Someone who buys the debt for pennies on the dollar, and sells it at a profit

4) **Rolling Jubilee** (www.rollingjubilee.org): A Strike Debt program that buys the debt and abolishes it (www.strikedebt.org)

5) **Collection agent:** Someone who purchases debt from the buyer and hunts down the borrower to extract the original amount plus additional fees

To Pledge or Not to Pledge

By AMANDA VENDER

The Pledge of Allegiance is usually recited in classrooms at the beginning of every school day. How did the practice start?

History of the Pledge

The Pledge was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to the Americas. In reciting the Pledge, children were to give the flag a military salute with "right hand lifted, palm downward, to a line with the forehead and close to it."

This flag salute was the norm in schools until 1942. At that time, it looked too much like the salute of the U.S.'s World War II enemy, Nazi Germany. This is when the hand-over-the-heart salute was introduced.

Legal Challenges

For religious reasons, Walter Barnette, a Jehovah's Witness, refused to allow his children to salute the flag and say the Pledge because he didn't believe in swearing loyalty to a power other than God. In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Barnette's favor.

In 2006, a federal district court in Florida ruled

that a state law requiring students to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance violated the U.S. Constitution. Cameron Frazier, a high school student,

said that he did not want to recite or stand during the Pledge each morning because of his personal political beliefs. He was teased and called "unpatriotic" by a teacher. As a result of the court's decision, a Florida school district was ordered to pay Cameron \$32,500.

"The law is crystal-clear that a public school cannot embarrass or harass a student for maintaining a respectful silence during the Pledge of Allegiance," said Ajmel Quereshi, an attorney for the legal organization, the American Civil Liberties Union.



Students salute the flag around 1941. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1943 that schools are not allowed to force students to stand and recite the Pledge.

newsbriefs



Record Number of Women in New Congress

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 10

More women will be in the 113th U.S. Congress than any in previous years—81 representatives and 20 senators, including Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), the first openly gay senator. This is a step towards equality, but it might not change Congress that much. "I don't think we should be satisfied until we have the same number of women in the Senate that represents the percentage of the population that are women," Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) told the New York Times. That means 50 percent of Congress would have to be women. As McCaskill says, "We still have a long way to go."



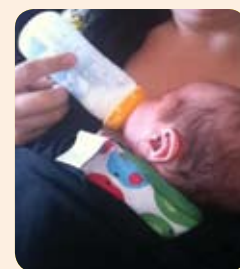
Philippines Finally Passes Health Bill for Women

By LILY COOK, age 15

After a decade-long struggle for women's basic reproductive rights in the Philippines, President Benigno Aquino signed a reproductive health care bill to take effect in January 2013. The bill will ensure that women, especially in poor communities, have rights over their own bodies, receive adequate medical care if they want to have a baby and get adequate family planning education.

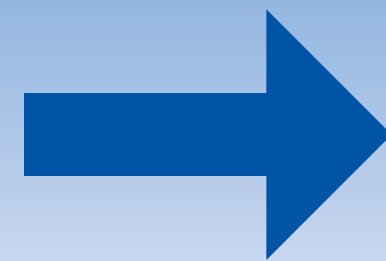
Chinese Buying Up Australian Infant Formula

Due to food safety concerns in China, Chinese tourists are flocking overseas to places like Australia to buy infant formula. They are emptying the shelves so fast that some stores are limiting purchase to two containers per customer. In 2009, six children died and 300,000 were made sick from infant milk formula that had melamine, an industrial chemical. An Australian company, Nutricia, said it had to increase its production of infant formula from 5,000 tons to 20,000 tons in 2012.



Adapting to Climate Change

By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 9, KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9, and THEO YANOS, age 10



The NRDC compared the number of heat days, rainfall and snow- fall to meteorological data dating back at least 30 years. To find out if your state broke any extreme weather records, go to <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records>



2188
Record
Heat Days



FEMA News Photo

1094
Days of Record
Rainfall



FEMA/Aaron Skolnik

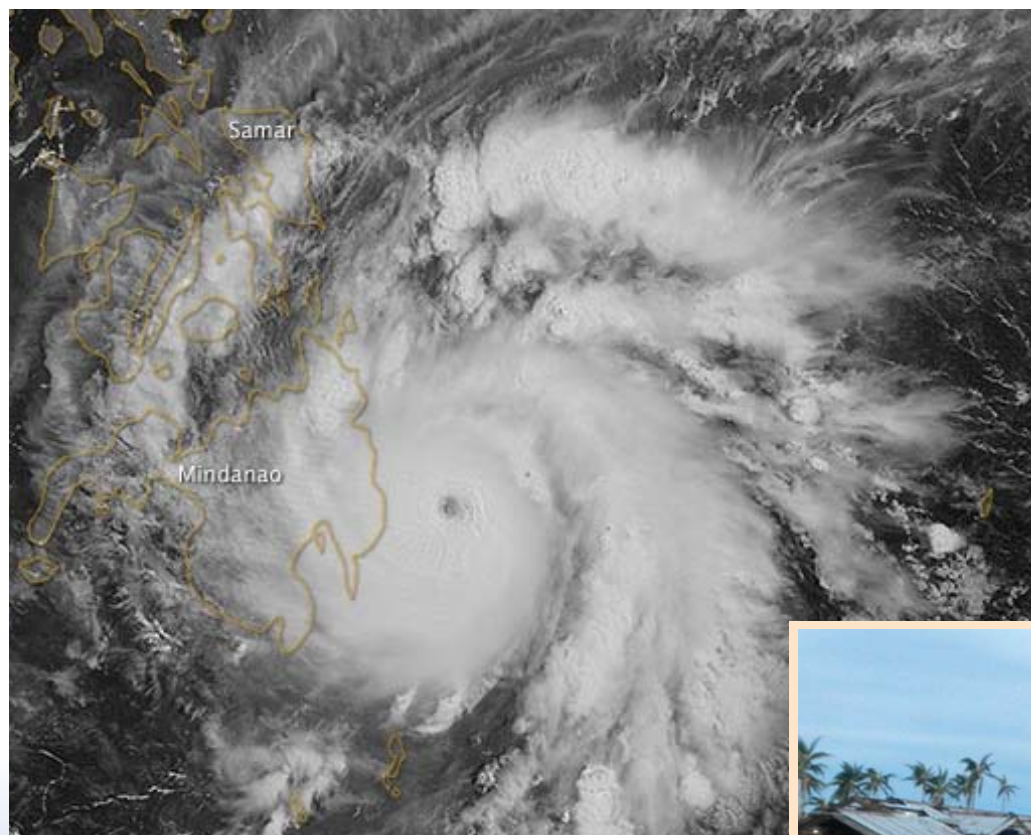
245
Days of Record
Snowfall

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

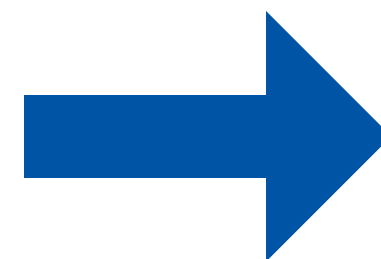


Typhoon Bopha

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 10



NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Typhoon Bopha makes landfall

Typhoon Bopha flattened fields and houses in Baganga in Davao Oriental.

The year 2012 will be remembered as a year of extreme weather and the ninth hottest since record keeping began in 1880, forcing this generation to think hard about what steps are necessary to adapt to climate change.

“This endless cycle of wildfires, droughts, rainstorms and floods leaves a trail of death, injury and destruction that hurts communities, damages our health and undermines (or weakens) our economy,” according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Adapting to climate change means changing behavior or policies with the future in mind. That means rebuilding areas destroyed by a climate-related event or building areas that would be prone to climate-related disaster for the long run.

“The way we build for the future [and] the decisions we make today is what the city will look like when you are a grown up,” Daniel Bader, a meteorologist and climate scientist at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, says.

What can kids do? Bader recommends:

- Reduce our emissions and carbon footprint. “Keep turning off light bulbs [when not in use] and walk to places instead of [driving].”
- Share your knowledge with your community. “If all the local communities take action, that movement may reach the higher level[s] [to influence state and national policies on climate change].”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sidney, Australia had its hottest day on record in January, with temperatures at 115.7 degrees Fahrenheit, while bush fires blazed through Victoria State in the south.
- China is experiencing record freezing temperatures, killing 180,000 cattle and leaving 379,000 people in a crisis according to *China Daily*.
- In the first week of January, two whales washed up on the shores of Long Island, New York and did not survive.
- The United States was hit with 90 percent of the world’s disaster costs in 2012, including the cost of damaged crops in the Midwest and destruction from Superstorm Sandy.

On December 4th, Typhoon Bopha hit the Philippines. It started forming on November 25th, 2012 and according to Daniel Bader, the storm “underwent rapid intensification (it got worse) just prior to hitting the Philippines.” CNN Asia reports that Typhoon Bopha caused floods and landslides, killing more than 1,000 people and leaving approximately 900 people missing. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes. Some homeless families are living in government shelters and others are living in makeshift shelters made from tree bark, plastic, wood and other pieces of houses and buildings left over from the destruction.

If Typhoon Bopha’s death toll reaches more than 1,500, it will be the second deadliest storm in the Philippines. In 1991 Tropical Storm Thelma hit the Philippines and killed 5,000 people; that was the worst storm so far in the Philippines. Why do typhoons hit the Philippines so often? Bader, says that typhoons form over warm ocean waters, and the Philippines are in a likely path for tropical storms. Typhoon Bopha was unique because it hit in a different part of the Philippines than storms usually do. He also said that the storm was “very strong, a Category 5 with winds close to 160 m.p.h.,” and typhoons might be stronger than they used to be, but it is hard to tell if climate change affects the typhoons’ force.

Natural factors may also cause stronger storms. Is there any way to stop typhoons? “Unfortunately, there is no way to stop typhoons,” said Bader. “However, there are ways that we can better prepare for the storms and reduce the damage they cause.”

The damage caused by Typhoon Bopha affected not only people and houses, but also farms and banana plantations. The Philippines is the world’s third largest banana grower. Bananas from the Philippines are sent to Japan, South Korea, China, New Zealand and the Middle East. The banana loss does not affect us in the United States, but it affects many other people. It will take many years to regrow the banana trees and to clean up the farmland. Much money has been lost by Typhoon Bopha. Losing fields, trees, and farms means that people will not have a way to make a living even after they rebuild their houses. The United Nations is asking countries from all around the world for \$65 million dollars to help rebuild the Philippines. Organizations like Oxfam, WorldVision and Mercy Corps are also asking for donations to help people in the Philippines.



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KID REPORTER

Black Holes

By THEO YANOS, age 10

On November 27, 2012, a group of astronomers led by Remco van den Bosch from the MPA (Max Planck Institute for Astronomy) made an amazing discovery. In a galaxy called NGC 1277, they found a supermassive black hole with a mass 17 billion times the Sun's mass. NGC 1277, this black hole's galaxy, is almost totally made of black holes. This supermassive black hole is 14 percent of its galaxy's mass, which is inconsistent with the current model where the one supermassive black hole in every galaxy is approximately 0.1 percent of its galaxy's mass.

A black hole is formed when a very massive star dies, causing it to collapse under its own weight, shrinking the star to a very small pinpoint called a black hole. Scientists believe that this supermassive black hole is probably a primordial black hole, a black hole probably formed before the big bang. This means that scientists believe that this supermassive black hole possibly formed before most other matter in the universe formed.



DANIEL R. BLUME

TEEN REPORTER

Hottest Year on Record

By LILY COOK, age 15

Al Gore, an advocate for education about the changing climate wrote an article detailing the announcement that 2012 was the hottest year on record. The average temperature was 55.3 degrees Fahrenheit, one degree above the recorded average. This could be due to the increasing use of carbon as energy, which has been proven to raise temperatures and is a major factor in the change of the climate.

8

That's the number of kids under 20 years old who die from gun violence every day in the U.S., along with 75 adults.
Source: <http://www.csgv.org/new-to-the-issue>

culture&activism

I Love Soccer

By BRYAN ROJAS HERRERA, age 12

KID REPORTER

Bryan, age 12, lives in Queens, New York. He speaks Spanish and English. If you speak another language, practice it and don't forget it. You'll be glad you did!

I love soccer. I love kicking the ball and making goals all throughout the summer. I love passing the ball to my teammates so that they could make a goal. I love when we win and that's because we are strong as a team. I love victories. I love having the ball at my feet so I can kick it and go for the goal. I love my family letting me play what I love.

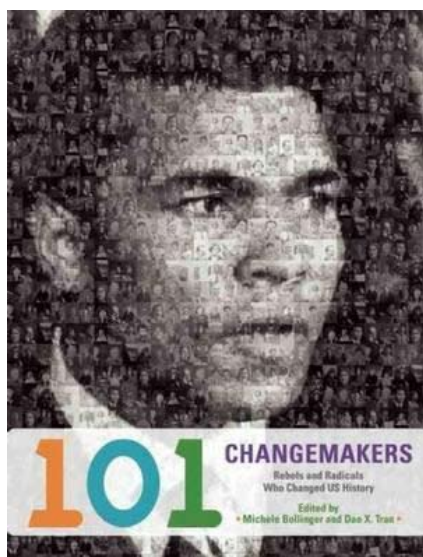


Amo jugar al fútbol. Amo patear la pelota y meter goles en el verano. Amo pasar la pelota a mis compañeros para poder meter goles. Amo cuando ganamos y eso es porque somos un equipo fuerte. Amo las victorias. Amo patear la pelota para poder conseguir un gol. Amo a mi familia por dejarme jugar lo que amo.

Book Review: 101 Changemakers

TEEN REPORTER

By LILY COOK, age 15



101 *Changemakers* is about the women and men who have shaped America's history by advocating for justice. The book tells the stories of many heroes, some of whom are common household names, like Rosa Parks or Harriet Tubman, but also of others whose names are not so universally known, like Fred Fay or Shirley Chisholm.

For example, Fred Fay helped pass the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and makes sure they have access to the same education as everyone else. This groundbreaking act is relevant to middle school kids because at one point not so long ago, kids with disabilities and those without them were

not allowed in the same classroom, and recognizing how far we have come is important.

Second, Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman ever elected in Congress. She also ran for President, and fought against the oppression of women, gays, Latinos and the working class. She also represents women who fought through many stereotypes, and all that she did deserves recognition.

Overall, the book, *101 Changemakers*, is informative yet interesting, and upon finishing it, the reader will definitely learn a lot about the history of America's heroes. It's inspiring and I would recommend it, because there were many people who I learned about who I didn't learn about in middle school.

Childhood Obesity Rates Drop in U.S. Cities

By NANCY RYERSON

Childhood obesity rates dropped for the first time in several U.S. cities, according to December 2012 numbers. The trend was found largely in cities like New York and Philadelphia that have anti-childhood obesity tactics in place, such as removing sugary drinks and deep fryers from school cafeterias. In the U.S., around 17 percent of children under 20 are obese. People who are obese as kids are more likely to be obese as adults and develop diseases such as diabetes. Experts hope numbers will stick and will continue to fall especially among lower income children, who are more likely to be obese than wealthier children.



FLICKR/ROBOPPY

Fatty snacks like potato chips can contribute to obesity.

Kids Tell Obama What They Think About Guns

These statements and images come from videos made by the White House, in which children read from letters that they had written to President Obama.



Can we stop using guns? I think if there are no guns on the street, no one can get hurt. Bullets don't have eyes. They can hurt everyone. I love my country and I want everyone to be happy and safe. No guns. No guns. No guns. No guns.

Hinna, age 8



I am writing you to ask you to STOP gun violence. I am very sad about the children who lost their lives in Connecticut.

Taejah, age 10



I may not be that into politics but my opinion is that it should be very hard for people to buy guns. The only thing they do is harm or kill. I know that laws have to be passed by Congress, but I beg you to try very hard to make guns not allowed. Not just for me, but for the whole United States.

Julia, age 11



I think there should be some changes in the law with guns. It's a free country but I recommend there needs to be a limit with guns. Please don't let people own machine guns or other powerful guns like that. I think there should be a limit about how many guns a person can own. We should learn from what happened at Sandy Hook [Elementary School].

Grant, age 8

Someday, you could be a Meteorologist, just like Daniel Bader

By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 9, KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9, and THEO YANOS, age 10



What exactly is the difference between a meteorologist and climate research scientist?

The biggest difference between the two jobs is the timeframe for which you are forecasting for. Meteorologists focus on short-term forecasts (days/weeks) while climate scientists look further out into the future (years/decades).

What is a typical day like for you?

My work is both science and kind of applied science. On a given day, I do a bit of research. I work with climate model data, large quantities of data, manipulating climate data to make projections. The other part of my day is spent on the planning side, the adaptation side of things, of thinking of solutions, talking to people, presenting my research to people, engaging the stakeholders (people who are interested in what we are working on). We're refining our communication techniques.

What kind of difference do you hope to make?

The work we do is increasing the awareness of people to climate risks. When future storms occur, we hope that the information we provide them with has lead to increased

planning and preparedness, thereby reducing damage and potentially loss of life.

Do you ever get to collaborate with other fields, artists, teachers?

We do a lot collaborations with social scientists. We do a lot of economics work. We've worked with a lot of people in New York State. Working in the parks department, etc. Since we are linked directly to NASA [we face] unique vulnerabilities to climate change because most of their facilities are on the coast. We do work with a broad group of folks. I didn't like space when I was a kid, but astronauts do a lot of cool work.

Do you have a favorite weather event? If so, why?

Snow storms during the winter. Who didn't like getting a snow-day while growing up!

You knew you wanted to be an weatherman at age 10. Was there an event?

I've always been interested. My first grade teacher used to show us pictures of clouds-cirrus, stratus, cumulus. That's one where I might have gotten the start. My father also used to talk about weather a lot.

For the full interview, visit indykids.org



NIKKI BAUTISTA

letters

These are comments that readers have left on articles at indykids.org. You can leave your own comments on any of the articles on our site.

As a 14-year-old young person of color, Mokgwetsi Chapman, in his article "The School-to-Prison Pipeline," has shared an amazing scholarly perspective on an issue that he and his peers are threatened by. Yet another great voice to be reckoned with as we build conversations on democratic education in America.

Noel Didla

In response to the article "Superstorm Sandy Takes Coney Island for a Ride" by Kylie Freyman, why do people name hurricanes? Why can't you number them? I was just wondering but I feel terrible about what happened! I hope that the people that died to rest in peace!

Sumaiya Mahee

In response to the article "Art or Animal Abuse?", I was wondering why didn't they think about the habitat that the butterflies need and the temperature they are used to having instead of the

temperature they cannot use.

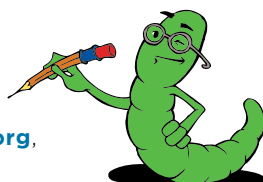
Kiana Danielle Laws

In response to the article "America's Fourth Graders Can't Read" by Nikki Saint Bautista, I find it surprising that the fourth graders of America cannot read books their level. I live in Canada and have a younger sister that is in fourth grade that can read 300-page chapter books. When I was in third grade, I was reading sixth grade novels like *Island of the Blue Dolphin* (great book!) Whoever becomes president should spent more money on the education system. also right to make health care easier to get.

Esther Jin

In response to the article "Someday, You Could Be an Artist and Writer, Just Like Marisa Jahn" by Kylie Freyman, Marisa seems to be a very skillful artist. It's not a surprise that she also has learnt Esperanto. I have met a lot of interesting people around the world doing the same. Esperanto speakers usually promote multicultural activities and human rights, thinking globally and acting locally.

James Pinton



WRITE TO INDYKIDS!

Send an email to: info@indykids.org, comment online at www.indykids.org, or write to: *IndyKids*, P.O. Box 2281, New York NY 10163

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WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“Dead as a Dodo”

By IRATI EGORHO DIEZ, age 10



Have you ever heard of the expression, “Dead as a dodo?”

If you have you must know it refers to the dodo bird. The dodo is an extinct, flightless bird. The last dodo ever seen was seen in the year 1662 although the last dodo was killed in 1681 by Dutch that settled in Mauritius, an island east of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean. At the time there were no predators in Mauritius so the dodo lost its ability to fly. Many other flightless birds lived among the dodo such as, the Red Rail, Rodrigues Rail and Rodrigues Solitaire. The dodo was brownish-gray, with yellow feet, and a tuft of feathers as a tail. It's head was gray with a black yellow or green beak. The exact appearance of the dodo is not known as it was extinct over 350 years ago. Doves and pigeons are surviving cousins of the dodo bird.

C O C O H U R R I F O R M U L A F S S
C H I X N A U S T R A L I A H C O T S
N I T R A M E O R O L O P G N I K O A
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V S S T E M P E R E X I C O T R T R V
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Word Search

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 11



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Who Am I?

By MOKGWETSI SIZWE CHAPMAN, age 14

1. I was born in 1912 in West Chester, Pennsylvania.
2. I started protesting Jim Crow laws in my state at an early age.
3. I joined Congress of Racial Equality.
4. I served three years in prison for refusing to join the military, but even in prison I continued to fight for equality for integrated dining halls.
5. I was arrested again but this time for revealing to the public that I was gay.

6. I began working with Martin Luther King, Jr., and later became his main advisor and helped put together the Montgomery bus boycott.

7. I fought for civil, gay and lesbian rights until my death in 1987.

(see answer below)



FLICKR/ADAM FOSTER

Getting Wild with... the Giraffe!

The world's tallest mammal, the giraffe, is hard to miss as it roams the grasslands of the African savanna. These beautiful, spotted herbivores (plant-eating animals) travel in small groups, frequently stopping to munch on leaves high up in the treetops. This is easy for them, considering a giraffe can be as tall as 20 feet, with a tongue almost two feet long! Their height allows them to see predators far off in the distance, which makes giraffes popular among their shorter neighbors, like zebras and wildebeests.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A giraffe's spots are as unique as a snowflake or fingerprints; no two are alike.
- Giraffe babies are six feet tall when they are born! They can stand within half an hour of birth and are able to run later that day.
- They make noises, known as infrasound, which people cannot hear.
- Their tongues are a dark blue, black or purple to protect against sunburn while poking out to grab leaves.

